

**Hilda Gonzalez**

TRIO SSS

As a first generation, low-income, non-traditional, transfer student to attend a four (4) year university, TRiO helped me navigate the university environment. The staff of the program provided one-on-one academic and career counseling in order for me to complete and earn my degree in a timely manner. The program provided financial support through the use of the textbook library system to off-set the cost of attendance, provided access to computer use, internet, and printing services. In addition, the program provided opportunities for personal and professional development by offering career opportunity workshops, financial literacy, mock interviews, job fair guidance and support. The counselors assisted with academic counseling, letters of recommendations, and career guidance.

After having graduated from WSU, I pursued an MPA at EWU. Shortly after graduating at EWU, I applied for positions within city government and higher education. I obtained a position as the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Instruction & Student Services and a position as an adjunct faculty for the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program at Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC) and have been working as the administrative assistant for over a year and two (2) quarters as adjunct faculty at YVCC.

 <https://sssp.wsu.edu/>

## Student Success Services

Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. Student Support Services (SSS) projects also may provide grant aid to current SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants (# 84.063). The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants.

All SSS projects must provide: academic tutoring, which may include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science, and other subjects; advice and assistance in postsecondary course selection, assist student with information on both the full range of student financial aid programs, benefits and resources for locating public and private scholarships; and assistance in completing financial aid applications. Education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy and assist students in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs; and assist students enrolled in two-year institutions and applying for admission to, and obtaining financial assistance for enrollment in four-year programs. The SSS projects may also provide individualized counseling for personal, career, and academic information, activities, and instruction designed to acquaint students with career options; exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available; mentoring programs, securing temporary housing during breaks for students who are homeless youths and students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system.

# TRIO